

accord, but much to my surprise and regret on the morning of the 20th, just a week after his capture, I found him dead in the bottom of his cage.

I am recording these notes in the belief that some observer who has had the opportunity of studying the Barn Owl in captivity would be interested in my experience with this individual. I have had Screech and Burrowing Owls in my possession for several days, but they all ate eagerly and voluntarily the food given them, and when released were in fine physical condition. I am wondering if the bird's behavior as reported above, especially as regards difficulty in feeding, was peculiar to this individual or characteristic of the species when kept in confinement.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, March 1, 1922.*

Bird Drives in the Yukon Delta.—In the spring of 1913, in company with Claud J. Roach, I made a trip by dog team from Bristol Bay, Alaska, to the Yukon River and back by way of the Kuskoquim River. The journey was made primarily to make certain investigations of the fur-bearing animals of the region for the United States Bureau of Fisheries, but an opportunity was afforded to make observations on other forms of life as well. Bethel, a town near the head of tidewater on the Kuskoquim, was made our headquarters for nearly two months. While there, we were greatly impressed by the vivid accounts we heard of the great bird drives which are held annually out on the Yukon delta. The stories came from so many sources, apparently reliable, and all so agreed in the essential details, that there seemed to be little doubt of the accuracy of the main features. Nevertheless, the drives seemed to be so unique that I had hoped to be able to check the statements by personal observation before making any report of them. But the likelihood of my being able again to visit the region is growing more and more remote, so it seems best to call the attention of others to the matter. Perhaps someone may be able to visit the place at the proper time to witness one of these events. Therefore, the account is repeated as it was given to us by numerous residents. I cannot, of course, vouch for the accuracy of the statements, but those who gave the information seemed entirely reliable.

The drives take place in the salt lagoons in the region south of Nelson Island. Apparently the borders of these are great breeding grounds for ducks and geese, and in August each year the young birds, almost grown but unable to fly, gather in large flocks in the quiet waters to await the maturing of the plumage before the southward flight. Their numbers are greatly increased by the adult birds, which at this season lose their wing feathers and are unable to fly. The cast-off feathers are so abundant that they form windrows on the shore lines.

The drive is made by the natives in their kyaks. Fifteen to twenty of these skin boats take part, one man to each. They beat the grassy banks and the water with their paddles and gradually drive the birds by thousands into some pocket or head where they are killed with sticks and spears with a great hurrah and much excitement. One drive in 1912 was said to have resulted in the capture of fourteen boat loads. Just how many birds this would represent is difficult to determine, but it would certainly be more than a thousand. I have seen a native take his wife, three children and several dogs, as well as his camp outfit, from beneath the hatch of one of these boats, and an estimate might roughly be made from this of the number of birds taken.

Some persons might be inclined to criticise the native for such wholesale slaughter, but they are advised to await an impartial investigation before doing so. Perhaps the people are entitled to them. The country is bleak and inhospitable; so much so that white men can scarcely get there at all. The inhabitants live much of the time upon raw food, chiefly the black fish of the interior delta lakes. Away from the coast they have no fuel whatsoever except a little seal oil which they take for their lamps. Yet they seem to be the healthiest, happiest, albeit the dirtiest, of all Alaska natives.—G. DALLAS HANNA, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, March 23, 1922.*

Black and White Warbler in Southern California.—I note that in THE CONDOR of September, 1921, in the Field and Study department, the "sixth occurrence of the Black and White Warbler" in California is recorded. It may be of interest to CONDOR readers to know that I saw a Black and White Warbler on the trunk of an old olive tree about fifteen feet from my window on October 14, 1908. Being an amateur at bird study I

did not, at the time, know the rarity of the object of my vision. However, there is no question in my mind as to its identity. It crept up and around the trunk of one tree and then did the same on another tree, in full view from the window.—MRS. T. F. JOHNSON, *National City, California, March 27, 1922.*

Ring-necked Ducks in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California*.—On the morning of March 6, 1922, Mr. C. R. Thomas, of the Audubon Association of the Pacific, kindly telephoned to Dr. Barton Warren Evermann, of the California Academy of Sciences, that he had the day before seen some Ring-necked Ducks (*Marila collaris*) on one of the Chain of Lakes in Golden Gate Park. Acting upon this information, Dr. Evermann and I repaired to the scene and found the ducks still there. We found Mr. A. S. Kibbe, president of the Audubon Association, also on the ground for the same purpose as ourselves. At the time of this visit the ducks were asleep on the water with their heads laid on their backs, and, as the light was not good, it was difficult to distinguish the female of this species from the Ruddy Duck (*Erismatura jamaicensis*).

As the light was better in the afternoon I took Mr. Chase Littlejohn with me and found matters much improved on the lake. The light was just right and the birds were moving around. As a result of this we succeeded in counting seven males and twenty females in the flock. On this occasion we met Mrs. Jane Schlesinger close to the lake and had the pleasure of showing the ducks to her. Mr. Littlejohn states that this species of duck used to be quite common on the southern part of San Francisco Bay, and that he had seen many flocks of them, as well as many of the birds brought in to Redwood City by hunters. But this was the first time I, myself, had ever had the opportunity to see a flock of these ducks. Mr. Kibbe has already made a brief report of the event in the *Gull* (vol. 4, no. 3), but it seemed of sufficient importance to warrant enlarging upon and presenting to the readers of the CONDOR.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, March 23, 1922.*

Field Notes from Riverside and Imperial Counties, California.—On March 27, 1922, I took a nest with one egg of the Mexican Ground Dove (*Chaemepelia passerina pallescens*) at Winterhaven, Imperial County, across the Colorado River from Yuma, Arizona. The female was incubating. I had been observing the pair for some moments. When first seen they were perched side by side on a slender branch near the nest. They then flew to the ground and copulated. The nest was in a slender willow on the edge of an irrigation ditch, about eight feet from the ground, wedged between the main trunk and one slender branch. I saw two other pairs of Ground Doves in the same general region, one of which was evidently also nesting, as the female returned persistently to the same clump of bushes.

The only other published record of the nesting of this species in California of which I am aware is that of Leo Wiley for Palo Verde, Imperial County (*Condor*, vol. 18, 1916, p. 230). The time of nesting is not mentioned in his note. Gilman (*Condor*, vol. 13, 1911, p. 54) says that the earliest nest found at Pima, Arizona, was on July 7.

Lark Buntings (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) were seen in small flocks at four different points between Banning and Yuma, feeding in washes or in open fields. One flock of about thirty birds was noted at the head of San Gorgonio Pass about a mile below Banning. On January 3, 1922, a flock of about twenty was noted at Thermal.

About a mile below Banning the last Cactus Woodpecker (*Dryobates scalaris cactophilus*) was noted. A single Lesser Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*) was seen near Brawley on March 28, feeding with a flock of about twenty Greater Yellow-legs.—RALPH HOFFMANN, *Carpinteria, California, April 4, 1922.*

Some Water Birds Seen in San Gorgonio Pass.—Several species are seen regularly passing overhead during the migrations. Large flocks of White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) go over in spring and fall. They usually fly at a great height, in V-shaped flocks, occasionally circling about for a while before going on. Wild Geese of several species appear in the spring, and Cranes (*Grus canadensis* or *G. mexicana*) go over occasionally.

The reservoir at Banning attracts many water birds. Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus albociliatus*) are frequently seen there, and Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and

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